1983-84 DIPLOMA APPRAISALS COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT ON THE

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL, RELIGIOUS AND

ETHICAL STUDIES

In the spring of 1984, the Diploma Appraisals Committee reviewed the Diploma in Theological, Religious and Ethical Studies. It studied documents from the 1979-80 appraisal; a report on the program submitted by Dr. Russel P. Moroziuk, its Director; and responses to questionnaires sent to students and graduates of the program. In addition, the committee met with the Director, and Ms. Bauer, the committee chair, discussed some aspects of the program with Dr. John Ryan, the chair of the Theological Studies Department, and Ms. Joyce Harding, its able secretary.

The committee supports the recommendation of Dean D. Taddeo that the program be given another 4 year mandate.

The committee finds that the program is in good health, maintaining an average enrollment of about 52 students a year over the past four years (excluding inactive students). The majority of students are part-time, and while many are taking the program in order to improve their qualifications or their classification rank, nearly all have a strong personal interest as well. Twenty-eight students and graduates responded to the questionnaire; of these 12 stated a definite intention to go on for further study, while 11 others said they might go on for further study. On the whole the responses were very enthusiastic, with strong praise for the quality of instruction in and the overall coherence of the program. Twenty-seven of the 28 respondents would recommend the program to a friend with similar interests, and many added that they had already done so.

Such negative comments as there were related almost exclusively to the physical resources of the program. While the average age of students was not calculated by either the program or the committee, it would appear from the questionnaires that a significant number of students are older. One respondent implied that many students were 'almost senior citizens'; another objected to having to climb so many stairs to get to class 'at my age'.

Another thing bemoaned by students was the lack of a place to meet, especially at night. Discussion and interaction with fellow-students was a high priority for more than two-thirds of the respondents, yet it appears that the common room on the 3rd floor of Hingston Hall (which Theological Studies shares with Classics) is far from adequate. It is a small L-shaped space, seating, at most, 7 persons in relative discomfort; most of the hollow of the 'L' is taken up by a bathroom which is only partly functional and frequently a source of unsociable fragrances. Efforts of the department to have the room enlarged by removing the washroom have been unsuccessful, apparently because removal of the washroom would affect the granting formula. This committee recommends that the department and the Faculty renew efforts to improve lounge space for the benefit of TRES students, and further recommends that serious consideration be given to holding certain classes on lower floors than the 3rd and 4th, for the benefit of those older students who are 'almost senior citizens'.

Finally, the program has done a good job of recruiting students from its traditional clientele of teachers of moral and religious education in secondary schools. Much recruitment is by word-of-mouth. There is a possibility of attracting teachers from elementary schools, as well as persons associated with a variety of religious organizations. Notwithstanding, the Director feels hampered by a complete lack of a budget. It is difficult for the Director to effectively market the program to school boards and others when there are no funds for promotional purposes. A suggestion has been made that $200 per annum would alleviate this situation. The committee supports this suggestion and recommends that the Faculty give it serious attention.

Summary

1. The committee supports the recommendation of Dean D. Taddeo that the program be given another 4 year mandate.
2. The committee recommends that the department and the Faculty renew efforts to improve available lounge space.

3. The committee recommends that certain classes be held on lower floors than the 3rd and 4th.

4. The committee supports the suggestion that the director of the program be provided with a budget of $200 per annum for promotional purposes.

F. Bauer

J. Palmer

G. Rosine